

Death Domain Containing Receptor 4

Abstract

The present invention relates to novel Death Domain Containing Receptor-4 (DR4) proteins which are members of the tumor necrosis factor (TNF) receptor family. In particular, isolated nucleic acid molecules are provided encoding the human DR4 proteins. DR4 polypeptides are also provided as are vectors, host cells and recombinant methods for producing the same. The invention further relates to screening methods for identifying agonists and antagonists of DR4 activity and methods for using DR4 polynucleotides and polypeptides. The invention also relates to the treatment of diseases associated with reduced or increased levels of apoptosis using antibodies specific for DR4, which may be agonists and/or antagonists of DR4 activity.